



CALPEEK

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FONG LIKELY FOR EQUALIZATION POST, WHILE DEMO BOE MEMBER BENNETT CHARGED BY D.A..

A year ago at about this same time, the State Board of Equalization had a membership of 3 Demos and 1 Republican. As of April 18, the composition will be 2 Demos and 2 Republicans, but that's not the end of it. It is possible Democrat BOE member Bill Bennett from No. Calif. could also lose his post if found guilty on any of 23 counts of filing false travel claims --- which resulted in Bennett's getting about \$9,000 from the State. If that happens, the GOP will have a 3-1 majority on the BOE, the State's key taxing agency...

...Fong first. Matt Fong, the unsuccessful GOP candidate for controller last year, is almost assured of taking over the BOE seat which used to belong to Paul Carpenter. It appears as though both the Senate and Assembly will let his nomination sail through without a vote - the same as a YES vote...

...When Carpenter was convicted in the FBI/Capitol corruption case in December, Sec. of State March Fong Eu(D), Fong's mother, declared the BOE seat vacant. Convicted felons can't hold public office, but Carpenter's lawyers are fighting the ruling in court. If Carpenter loses, the GOP would then have 2 BOE members...

...Now for Bennett. Allegations of falsifying travel reports first surfaced last May in the L.A. Times. Once that story broke, auditors from the BOE began to probe records and eventually turned their findings over to the AG and the Sacto Co. DA. The investigation dragged on through the summer and Bennett was reelected in November over Republican Jeff Wallack, who kept the issue alive, but didn't have the resources to defeat Bennett...

...How did the BOE find out about Bennett's

travel reports? Some CALPEEK sources think it was BOE member Paul Carpenter who tipped Demo candidate Joseph Micallef, who was running against Bennett in the June 1990 primary. Micallef claims his probe of Bennett, using the CA Public Records Act, is what nailed Bennett. Micallef says his checking of Bennett's car telephone log, as well as gasoline, hotel and telephone credit card receipts, in many cases showed Bennett in two places at the same time. And that's what Sacto Co. DA Steve White says in his criminal complaint. Stay tuned...

L.A. CITY ELECTION: A NUMBER OF SURPRISES.

Editor's note: April 9th wasn't your normal election day in L.A. A few hours before the polls closed, L.A. Council President John Ferraro somehow managed to get L.A. Mayor Tom Bradley and L.A.P.D. Chief Daryl Gates to call a temporary truce in the bitter war over whether Gates should be fired as police chief. And yes, the Rodney King beating by L.A.P.D. officers was a HOT subject in the city primary. With the exception of the 6th & 12th council districts, all incumbents won. Here is CALPEEK's report & analysis...

INCUMBENTS UNDER SIEGE

• 6th C.D. - 1st term incumbent Ruth Galanter just missed avoiding a runoff with her chief opponent, supervisorial deputy Mary Lee Gray. Galanter got 49.3%, while Gray, with a rather limited warchest, got only 20.3%. The big surprise was candidate Sal Grammatico, who won 16%. Four years ago Grammatico got only 2%, and very few felt he would do much better this time. What this all says is that Galanter has some work to do if she is hold her seat on the council. Yes, Galanter got caught up

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in the Gates/Bradley battle - at first not saying much at all and then suddenly siding AGAINST Gates on a key council vote. Bottomline: edge to Galanter, but the runoff with Gray could be close...

- 12th C.D. - This conservative district in the S.F. Valley belonging to veteran Councilman Hal Bernson sent the incumbent a message Apr. 9th: they didn't like his stand on the controversial Porter Ranch development project. Bernson, who up to this point has been a very popular councilman, got only 34.7%. He will now have to face off with L.A. School Board member Julie Korenstein, who got 29.3%. Several CALPEEK sources think Bernson is in very DEEP trouble. And if Korenstein is able to keep Porter Ranch alive as the key issue, Bernson could be finished. In order to survive the runoff, some CALPEEK sources think Bernson must shift the issue to law & order and support for Chief Gates. He is a Gates supporter, while Korenstein has called for Gates to resign. Bottomline: despite Bernson's ability to raise a large warchest, a slight edge to Korenstein, for now...

OPEN SEATS

- 8th C.D. - This district in South L.A. belongs to retiring Councilman Bob Farrell. The key issue was and will continue to be the King/Gates/L.A.P.D. incident, with a June 4 runoff between Southern Christian Leadership Council regional director Mark Ridley-Thomas up against surprise runner-up Rod Wright, a campaign and PA executive. The co-favorite with Ridley-Thomas, Kerman Maddox, finished third. Ridley-Thomas got 31.36%, compared to 23.57% for Wright. As for why Wright did better than expected, mark it up to a good job on direct mail (Leslie Winner) and the backing of U.S. Rep. Maxine Waters(D-L.A.). And some CALPEEK sources think the 4th place finisher, attorney Billy Mills, cut into Maddox's base of support. Bottomline: this contest could end up very close, but for now a slight edge to Ridley-Thomas...

- 9th C.D. - This is the downtown council district that was represented by the late Gil Lindsay. Here insider forecasts were right on target, with L.A. School Board member Rita Walters finishing first and Lindsay's longtime aide, Bob Gay, finishing a strong second. Bottomline: with

Walters getting support from Mayor Bradley and Gay on the receiving end of help from Maxine Waters, this contest could prove to be very interesting. Too close to call...

PROP. 1 - 911

...One of the casualties of the Gates vs. Bradley war was Prop. 1, the \$235 million proposal to upgrade L.A. City's 911 emergency response system. Prop. 1 needed a 2/3rd vote, but only scored 59.8%. The ballot title had the words "police tax money" in it, so that didn't help. But in addition, one slatecard maker, Fred Huebscher, carried NO on 1 on his cards. CALPEEK sources say the cards that went into South L.A. carried a message that said something like "Don't Give Gates Any More Money." Very effective. Stay tuned...

RECALL: POLITICAL WEAPON OF LAST RESORT.

Editor's note: RECALL - just the mention of it sends chills up the backs of elected officials. And since there has been so much in the news as of late about recalling L.A. Police Chief Daryl Gates and a new recall threat to L.A. Mayor Tom Bradley, plus the recall vote in San Diego Apr. 9th, CALPEEK decided to take a brief look at the recall as a political weapon...

...The ability to recall an elected official is generally credited to the reform movement here in Calif. by Hiram Johnson in 1911. But the recall was incorporated into the L.A. City Charter 8 years earlier, in 1903...

...At the State level, which includes the constitutional officers, court officials, as well as members of the Calif. Legislature, there have been 78 attempts to recall various officials --- but only 3 have ever made it to the ballot, the last one being in 1914 against State Sen. James Owens of Marin County. None have succeeded...

...For those who are curious, there have been 23 attempts against various governors (7 against Deukmejian, 4 Jerry Brown, 3 Pat Brown and 3 Reagan - plus earlier recalls); 1 against an LG; 1 against an AG; 1 against the ENTIRE Calif. Supreme Court; 5 against former CA Sup. Ct. Chief Justice Rose Bird; 13 against various high court jurists; 11

against senators and 23 against members of the State assembly (5 Demo assemblymen were recall targets in 1989 after they voted YES on the Assault Weapons bill)...

...But more often than not, the recall is a weapon used at the LOCAL level of government - most often aimed at a city council member, mayor or county supervisor. Just recently, recall proponents gathered enough signatures to force a recall upon Rancho Palos Verdes Councilwoman Jacki Bacharach. Recall proponents are now in the process of gathering names in West Hollywood to oust Mayor John Heilman. And in San Diego, Councilwoman Linda Bernhardt got the boot when 71% of the voters cast ballots Apr. 9 to oust her (see separate recall story)...

...Perhaps the best known recall attempt of a local official took place in 1983, when former S.F. Mayor Dianne Feinstein CRUSHED a recall against her by winning 82%. She went on to win reelection later that same year...

...In L.A., the most successful recall was against L.A. School Board member Howard Miller, who favored BUSING. He was ousted by current Board member Roberta Weintraub in the late 1970s...

...Why do most recalls fail? According to consultant Clint Reilly (he managed the NO side of the DiFi recall in 1983), there are only 2 viable reasons for a recall: inattention to duty or corruption in office. If the recall target doesn't fall into one of those categories, it is tough to wage a successful campaign, especially if the RECALL itself becomes the issue, rather than the target. Logistically, money & manpower are also keys to success - and without them recall attempts are usually doomed from the start. Just ask Michael Bogatirev of Monterey County, who has filed 22 recalls over the past 5-10 years - none of which ever reached the ballot. Stay tuned...

TO CALPEEK SUBSCRIBERS: CHANGE OF ADDRESS.

If you're planning to move or have already done so, please send CALPEEK a change of address notice, WITH your current CALPEEK mailing label. The label contains a code which enables CALPEEK to quickly process your change of address...

BERNHARDT FOES SUCCEED IN RECALL EFFORT.

San Diego Councilwoman Linda Bernhardt is no longer on the council. She was recalled Apr. 9, with 71% of those voting in favor of replacing her. In raw numbers, recall proponents got 14,700 to 5,000 against the recall. Polling data that CALPEEK reported in its April 1 issue indicated that 60-65% of those questioned favored the recall, so the results weren't that shocking, except to Bernhardt and her advisors, who felt that their VBM program and her constant precinct walking might stem the tide. The leading contender to replace Bernhardt is Tom Behr. As CALPEEK's deadline approached, he had a 324 vote lead over perennial candidate Floyd Morrow. A big winner in this battle was Councilman Bruce Henderson, who helped organize the recall...

L.A. PA OFFICERS HOST D.C. PA PRESIDENT.

"The Future of PACs & Other Endangered Species" is the subject of a speech by Ray Hoewing, president of the Public Affairs Officers Council of Wash. D.C., who will address the L.A. Public Affairs Officers Assn. lunch Apr. 24 at the Tower Restaurant (Sunset Room) in downtown L.A. Reception 11:30 a.m., lunch 12 noon. For info and RSVPs, (818)302-1990...

1992 U.S. HOUSE RACES: A CALPEEK UPDATE.

Editor's note: Here is another update on a few House elections CALPEEK will cover in the months ahead:

- 6th C.D. - This is the district now represented by U.S. Rep. Barbara Boxer (D-Greenbrae). Lots of action here. Assemblyman John Burton (D-S.F.) held a news conference some 10 days ago to say he was NOT going to run. This used to be his seat...

...CALPEEK has confirmed yet another likely Demo in this race: J. Bennett Johnson III, son of U.S. Sen. J. Bennett Johnson Jr. (D-Louisiana). The younger Johnson is a director of land conservation for the non-profit group, The Trust for Public Land. He lives in the Bay Area, but sources say not in the district -- yet. Another possible entrant might be Jim Garrison (D). Remember him from 1988 when he ran in the 12th C.D. for Ed Zschau's seat against Anna Eshoo? He's moved and yes, he still has money, AND he's

carving out a name for himself with his Tamal Pais Institute...

...Still in the running are Mill Valley Mayor Dick Spotswood, Marin Co. Sup. Dennis Rice; and former Marin Co. Demo Party chair David Strand. Haven't heard much lately about S.F. Sup. Angela Alioto, S.F. City Atty. Louise Renne or S.F. School Board member Joanne Miller. On the GOP side, banker Bill Boerum is looking at another run and Assemblyman Bill Filante is looking around, keeping his "options open."...

- 27th C.D. - This is the district now belonging to U.S. Rep. Mel Levine(D-Santa Monica), who will be running for the senate next year. Latest name to be mentioned as having interest is State Sen. Herschel Rosenthal(D-L.A.). Stay tuned...

46th A.D. SPECIAL: YET ANOTHER UPDATE.

One of the frontrunners in this June 4 special to replace Assemblyman Mike Roos has DROPPED OUT. Peter Taylor, a PA executive for General Telephone of Calif., and a former chief of staff to Roos, pulled the plug Apr. 5. Taylor's wife is on the home stretch of a difficult pregnancy - that's the official reason...

...With Taylor out, it means that perhaps either John Wasielewski, Roos's immediate past COS, or Mike Cacciotti, another former Roos AA, might be able to get some assistance from those folks who were backing Taylor. Maybe...

...The 1st financial reports will be due on Apr. 25, covering the period up to Apr. 20. State senate staffer Keith Umemoto has had a phone bank going for the past 2 weeks, while both Adam Schiff and Asst. L.A. City Atty. John Emerson are walking precincts. Emerson is handing out a 4-page brochure with this photo on the cover. He's dressed in a shirt & tie, with his coat over his shoulder, and wearing BLUE JEANS. It's called the "Rustic Yuppie" look...

LESBIAN & GAY REMAPPING PROJECT UNDERWAY.

WESPAC - Western States Conference of Gay & Lesbian Political Action Committees - has launched a reapportionment project to impact the drawing of CA congressional and legislative boundaries. WESPAC is chaired

by Donald Disler of S.F. and John Duran of Orange Co. Political consultant Dick Pabich of Berkeley is coordinating. Steering committee members include S.F. Supes Harry Britt, Robert Achtenberg & Carole Migden, and San Mateo Co. Sup. Tom Nolan. Although Calif. has several gay or lesbian local elected officials, there are no OPENLY gay or lesbian members of either the CA Congressional delegation or the State Legislature. For info about WESPAC, (415)649-0254...

GUN SAFETY BILL WINS COMMITTEE APPROVAL.

AB 618, the handgun safety bill by Rusty Areias(D-Los Banos), won a first round in the CA Assembly's Public Safety Committee on a 4-0 vote. There were some major amendments added to the bill which may help in the long run. The basic aim of AB 618 is to require first-time handgun buyers to take a 2-hour safety course. The gun lobby says this provision is unnecessary for people who already own guns or who have hunting licenses. One of the amendments substitutes a written test for the handgun safety course. Stay tuned...

NEW JOBS, ADDRESSES AND PERSONNEL NOTES.

Editor's note: Here are some items to mark down in your notebook:

- Ventura Co. Sup. Jack Flynn is the new president of SCAG - So. Calif. Assn. of Governments. He had been SCAG's interim president. Imperial Co. Sup. Abe Seabolt was elected 2nd VP...

- PR/PA/campaign consultants Donna Lucas and Bob Nelson formally open Nelson & Lucas Communications at 1130 "K" St., Ste. 270, Sacto 95814, (916)443-3354. Nelson is also partnered with Joann Ralston & Bob Robb in a Phoenix/Costa Mesa firm...

- Phil Giarrizzo has opened his own campaign consulting firm at 2541 Curtis Way, Sacto 95818 (916)739-0375. Giarrizzo use to work for Assemblyman Sal Cannella(D)...

- CA State Treas. Kathleen Brown(D) has been appointed to the Anthony Commission on Public Finance. The commission was formed in 1988 by U.S. Rep. Beryl Anthony(D-AR)...